

UPDATES FROM MEDICAL SCREENING AND EPIDEMIOLOGY PANELS NOVEMBER, 7 2003

The **Medical Testing Advisory Panel** met for the first time on October 29, 2003. Panel members were brought up to speed on the background and issues related to Station 31. They were also made aware of the Prezant Industrial Hygiene Study and the epidemiological study.

The panel discussed the purpose of medical testing – to detect a condition early so that disease or death from that condition can be diminished. There is not one test that can accomplish this. The panel agreed that in order to do appropriate medical testing, they need more information about the potential risks to Station 31 members – information that will be gathered from the Prezant and epidemiological studies and from the concerns of the station members themselves. As the panel agreed to put together educational material about appropriate medical tests for conditions of concern raised by Station 31 members. These conditions include: cancer, alopecia, connective tissue disorders, heavy metal toxicity, lead, leukemia, non-Hodgkins lymphoma and multiple sclerosis. The next meeting of the panel will be in early January.

The **Epidemiological Study Advisory Panel** had its first meeting on October 30, 2003. The group spent some time understanding the daily operations of the station, including the volume and type of work performed, and the schedules of the firefighters and other station personnel. The panel discussed how a study might be structured, and, as a first step, recommended a study that will look at the cancer incidence of Station 31 members as compared to the cancer incidence of the general population in Washington state, using the data in the Washington State Cancer Registry. The group agreed that before any analysis can be undertaken, a computerized database containing information about who has worked at Station 31, in what time frame and in what capacity, must be created. The city is moving forward to generate this database.